

Answers to Offeror Clarification Questions to Amendment 004
17 March 2005

1. In RFP Amendment 4, on page 88: didn't NOAA/NWS want to delete L.2 FAR 52.215-20 REQUIREMENTS FOR COST OR PRICING DATA OR INFORMATION OTHER THAN COST OR PRICING DATA (OCT 1997)?

Due to the type of procurement, NOAA/NWS removed the requirement for certifying cost or pricing data in the Answer under question 1. of the Amendment 4 questions, so FAR 52-215-20 does not apply.

Answer: No, 52.215-20 will remain in the RFP.

2. Ref. Exhibit 5.0-1 Transition Schedule, line item # 38, Test bed breakdown and Transport: The schedule does not reflect the 3 wave approach outlined in Appendix E. We recommend the schedule be modified to include all 3 waves, and that all waves be completed by September 30.

Answer: The Government has not made a decision to extend the incumbent's contract beyond September 30. The incumbent's phaseout plan schedule will be adjusted to have a completion date of September 30, 2005.

3. If the transition of the test beds occurs after 30 Sep, should part of that transition cost be priced in a separate CLIN or part of the first year CLIN?

Answer: See answer to #2.

4. Please confirm that the "front matter" page allocations, from the RFP and respective Amendments, shown below are accurate. Clarification is required because Amendment 4 states that the RFP supersedes answers provided in the Amendment Q&A, and the RFP does not address "front matter" page allocations. We recommend including a corrected version of the last column of this table in Amendment 5 to clarify the "front matter" page allocations.

Front Matter	Amendment 4 RFP (3/10/05)	Amendment 2 Q&A (9/22/04)	Amendment 5 Recommendation
Volume Cover			not in page count
Signed Cover Letter			not in page count
Title Page with Disclosure Statement		not in page count	not in page count
Table of Contents		not in page count	not in page count
Table of Figures		not in page count	not in page count
Acronym List			not in page count
Tab Dividers			not in page count
Tab Cover Page		not in page count	not in page count

Answer: "Front matter" pages are not included in the page count. Please see Amendment 005 of the RFP.

5. In the RFP Amendment 004 Questions on page 6, NOAA/NWS replied with the statement that "The Operations & Maintenance CLIN will have ten (10) contract periods; however, the Hardware Product Improvement and Software Product Improvement CLINS are optional and will be exercised upon the Government's need. However, the base and both options should be priced for the entire ten year period."

Given that the RFP governs the parties and contractors must price the task orders with many unknowns and for each separate year:

A. does this mean that the winning contractor can expect an award based upon a five-year base period with CLINS that create ceiling prices based upon the proposed task order?

B. does this mean that once ceiling prices for each task order are negotiated, the winning contractor will then have the opportunity to assist NOAA/NWS in planning specific task orders and then performing under realistic task orders priced upon real needs and requirements after contract award?

Answer: The Government encourages you to provide your best proposal based upon the information already provided.

6. Does NOAA/NWS plan to execute the five year base period with incremental funding whereby task orders can than be planned and priced for years 2-5 with the latest system needs?

Answer: The Government envisions the award of an IDIQ contract under which the Government will issue task orders to meet its needs.

